

43. (New) A method for treating cancer comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a ligand selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids;
- b) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
- c) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157 to 250 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;—and
- d) an APRIL ligand selected from:
 - (i) SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (ii) an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (New) A method for suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL ligand polypeptide, comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of a ligand selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids;
- b) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
- c) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157 to 250 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
- d) an APRIL ligand selected from:
 - (i) SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (ii) an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID-NO:2; and

- e) a soluble APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an N-terminal truncation from between amino acid numbers 81 to 139.

45. (New) A method for suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL receptor polypeptide, comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of a ligand selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids;
- b) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
- c) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157 to 250 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
- d) an APRIL ligand selected from:
- (i) SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (ii) an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- e) a soluble APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an N-terminal truncation from between amino acid numbers 81 to 139.

46. (New) A method for identifying an agent capable of suppressing the growth of a cell culture, comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying a cell that proliferates in response to the binding of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:2 to its cell surface receptor;
- b) growing said cell in said cell culture;
- c) exposing said cell culture comprising said cell to a compound resulting in an exposed cell culture;

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- d) concurrently or subsequently exposing said exposed cell culture to a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
 - e) comparing the proliferation of said cell within said exposed cell culture to the proliferation of a substantially identical cell in a second cell culture that was not exposed to said compound; and
 - f) determining whether said compound has suppressed the growth of said cell in said exposed cell culture.

47. ~~(New) The method of claim 46, wherein said compound is an analog of SEQ ID NO:2.~~

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D3

48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said compound is an antibody directed to the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:2, ~~or a fragment thereof.~~

49. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said cell is a tumor cell.

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's rejoining of Group V (claims 26 and 41 and 42 in part) with the elected Group IX for concurrent prosecution. In response, Applicant has added new claims 43-45 which are essentially the same as the claims of Group V as described by the Examiner in the March 13, 2001 Office Action. Specifically, claim 43 recites the subject matter of former claim 26 (now cancelled). Elements a)-d) of added claims 44 and 45 rejoin subject matter which was removed from claims 41 and 42 as a result of the March 13, 2001 Restriction Requirement. Element e) of claims 44 and 45 is directed